

## WEST FIRLE UNION.

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The following is the report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1894:

The sanitary record for 1894 compares favourably with that of the year preceding, being debited with only 28 deaths against 38 for 1893. The births have been 59—28 males and 31 females—more than double the number of deaths. Four deaths have occurred in Alciston, four in Beddingham, two in Berwick, two in Chalvington, seven in Glynde, three in Ripe, one in Selmeston, four in West Firle and one in the Union House. One male child of five years died of diphtheria, one male of five years of whooping cough; no other fatal case of zymotic or infectious diseases is recorded. One male of 34 of scrofulous disease, one female of 75 years died of cancer, one male of six of croup, four males of 18, 28, 38 and 38 and two females of 28 and 39 succumbed to phthisis, two females of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  and 75 of diseases of the brain, two males of eight and 82 of bronchitis, one male of 46 of heart disease, one female of 32 of disease of the kidneys, &c.; two infants prematurely born and three a few days old of low vitality; two males and one female, each of 79, died of decay of nature; two males of 38 and 43 accidentally killed; and one male of 75 of chronic rheumatism. The mortality was much greater in the first half of the year. The long continuance of abnormal heat and drought in 1893 resulted in the attraction of the telluric or malarial poison of the earth to the surface; this being condensed by the wet and cold weather of the first quarter acted injuriously on patients of a weak system, thus accounting for the unusually large proportion of deaths from scrofula, cancer, phthisis and atrophy; very few deaths have resulted from acute disease such as bronchitis, &c. Ten notifications of infectious diseases have been received by me; the premises have all been promptly visited and prophylactic measures taken, and only one death resulted, that of a child of five suddenly of diphtheria. Eleven nuisances of sufficiently grave character to be reported have been brought before the Board and in the majority of cases have been remedied or abated with reasonable promptitude, only one remaining on the book. The water supply has been generally very good, and no case of overcrowding has been recorded. This being my 21st annual sanitary report, I take the opportunity of recording the gradual diminution of the death rate. In the first period of seven years, 1874-80, the number of deaths was 257, at the rate of 15 per 1,000; during the last period of seven years, 1888-94, the number of deaths was 227, at a trifle over 13 per 1,000. In view of the improvement in health throughout the Union during the later portions of the year and the small death rate, 11.48 per 1,000, the Rural Sanitary Authority may be congratulated on being able to look forward to duties neither onerous nor disagreeable. I have to record my thanks to the district medical officers for their kind and courteous co-operation.

J. C. SANGER, M.D.,  
M.O.H. for West Firle Union.

Jan. 17th, 1895.





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